Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Riverine Sand Flats
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation (VII.C)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated sand flats (VII.C.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (VII.C.2.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded sand flats (VII.C.2.N.c)
ALLIANCE	SAND FLATS TEMPORARILY FLOODED SPARSE VEGETATION ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM

GLOBAL RANGE

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This type is restricted to the newly formed sandbars associated with the Little Missouri River.

Globally

This type stretches from the western Great Plains to the eastern portions of the Midwest.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This is a very sparsely vegetated community that occurs on newly exposed and deposited material generated from the receding water that of the Little Missouri River.

Globally

This community is a sparsely vegetated community that occurs along river shorelines, islands, pointbars, and flats. These sandbars form when receding floodwaters deposit sand and lesser amounts of clay, silt, and cobbles in the stream bed. Soils are often undeveloped due to the ephemeral nature of the stands. Drainage depends on depth above the water level (Nelson 1985, Steinauer and Rolfsmeier 1997).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Stratum	Species
Herbaceous	*Xanthium spinosum, Arctium minus*

Globally

Stratum	Species

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Information not available

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Because these sites consist of newly exposed or deposited material that is very dynamic, vegetation is generally very sparse and tends to be somewhat weedy. Species richness is very low and consists primarily of *Xanthium spinosum* and/or *Arctium minus*.

Globally

Vegetation is very sparse, highly dynamic and irregular in structure because of constantly changing conditions on the river. Herbaceous species shared in Missouri and Nebraska include *Cyperus spp. (C. erythrorhizos, C. odoratus, C. squarrosus), Eragrostis hypnoides, Eragrostis trichodes, Leptochloa fascicularis, Polygonum spp*. (including *Polygonum lapathifolium), Rorippa sinuata, Sporobolus cryptandrus*, and *Xanthium strumarium*. Other species listed for Nebraska and Missouri alone can be found in Nelson (1985) and Steinauer and Rolfsmeier (1997). Woody cover is generally absent in the first year of establishment but can increase if the site does not flood. A broader description including other Midwest and Great Plains sites is needed.

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002049

COMMENTS
Given the dynamic nature of the habitat and lack of information from across the range of this type, it is not clear which species are most constant in the Great Plains. This community can be very short-lived. For example, in Nebraska, it rarely persists for more than a single season before it is either destroyed by flooding or succeeds to other communities such as *Salix exigua* communities (Steinauer and Rolfsmeier 1997).

REFERENCES